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CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

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March 3, 2006

Members, *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council
Anchorage, AK

We have audited the financial statements of the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council Trust Funds, Oil Spill Investment Fund and Oil Spill Settlement Fund as of and for the years ended June 30, 2005 and 2004, and the Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Funds (NRDA&R) as of and for the years ended September 30, 2005 and 2004, and have issued our report thereon dated March 3, 2006. Professional standards require that we provide you with the following information related to our audit.

Our Responsibility under U.S. Generally Accepted Auditing Standards and *Government Auditing Standards*

As stated in our engagement letter dated July 12, 2005, amended September 28, 2005 and March 28, 2006, our responsibility, as described by professional standards, is to plan and perform our audit to obtain reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that the financial statements are free of material misstatement and are fairly presented in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. Because an audit is designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute assurance and because we did not perform a detailed examination of all transactions, there is a risk that material misstatements may exist and not be detected by us.

As part of our audit, we considered the internal control of the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council (the Council). Such considerations were solely for the purpose of determining our audit procedures and not to provide any assurance concerning such internal control.

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed test of the Council's compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations and contracts. However, the objective of our tests was not to provide an opinion on compliance with such provisions.

Significant Accounting Policies

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter, we will advise management about the appropriateness of accounting policies and their application. The significant accounting policies used by the Council are described in Note 2 to the financial statements. No new accounting policies were adopted and the application of existing policies was not changed during 2005 or 2004. We noted no transactions entered into by the Council during these years that were both significant and unusual, and of which, under professional standards, we are required to inform you, or transactions for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus.

Accounting Estimates

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. We noted no accounting estimates that were both sensitive and significant.

Audit Adjustments

For purposes of this letter, professional standards define an audit adjustment as a proposed correction of the financial statements that, in our judgment, may not have been detected except through our auditing procedures. An audit adjustment may or may not indicate matters that could have a significant effect on the Council's financial reporting process (that is, cause future financial statements to be materially misstated). In our judgment, none of the adjustments we proposed, whether recorded or unrecorded by the Council, either individually or in the aggregate, indicate matters that could have a significant effect on the Council's financial reporting process.

Disagreements with Management

For purposes of this letter, professional standards define a disagreement with management as a matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, concerning a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditors' report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

Consultations with Other Independent Accountants

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a "second opinion" on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the Council's financial statements or a determination of the type of auditors' opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

Issues Discussed Prior to Retention of Independent Auditors

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to retention as the Council's auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing our audit.

This information is intended solely for the use of the Members of the Council and management of the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Restoration Office and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of the letters 'ERM' in a stylized, cursive-like font.

13,02.15



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